

## K-12 Education

- **We invested more resources this past year into college and career readiness initiatives, including dual enrollment, FAB Labs, and youth apprenticeship programs. The state started providing funding for school districts to do academic and career plans as early as 6th grade starting this year.**
  - **Dual Enrollment - Fast Forward Worker Training Grants for Wisconsin High School Pupils:** In 2016, \$3 Million was set aside in Wisconsin Fast Forward to support employer-driven workforce programs in collaboration with school districts, educational partners, and technical colleges to train and hire high school students. ("Worker Training Grants for Wisconsin High School Pupils," [Department of Workforce Development](#))
  - **Fab Labs: In Addition To The \$500,000 Appropriation In The 15-17 Budget, WEDC Allocated \$600,000 To Expand Fab Labs In 2016.** "The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. is allocating an additional \$500,000 to the state's Fab Labs program, which helps school districts expand workshops with computer-controlled manufacturing equipment. The 2015-17 state budget included \$500,000 in initial funding for the Fabrication Laboratories Grant Program. WEDC added another \$100,000 in May. A total of 25 school districts were awarded up to \$25,000 in grants." (Arthur Thomas, "State Expanding Fab Labs Program," [Milwaukee Business News](#), 9/19/2016)
  - **Youth Apprenticeship: 2016-17 Statewide Youth Apprenticeship Grants Totalled \$3.2 Million, A \$1 Million Increase Over The Previous Year.** "Governor Scott Walker joined United Pride Dairy, LLC leaders and employees today in Phillips to announce statewide Youth Apprenticeship (YA) grants totaling \$3.2 million. The grants are awarded to 32 regional consortiums across Wisconsin for the 2016-17 school year...Governor Walker announced earlier this year an additional \$1 million investment in the YA program, which will serve approximately 600 additional Wisconsin students." ("Governor Walker Announces \$3.2 Million in Youth Apprenticeship State Grants at United Pride Dairy, LLC," [Department of Workforce Development](#), 6/29/2016)
- **The state started providing funding for school districts to do academic and career plans as early as 6th grade starting this year.** Starting in the 2017-2018 school year all students in grades 6 through 12 will have an academic and career plan. In the 2013-2015 budget, the state provided \$1.1 million in ongoing funding for this program. In Fall 2015, 25 school districts began participating in a pilot program to develop best practices and training programs for ACPs. ([Wisconsin State Statute 115.28, Subsection 59a](#); State of Wisconsin, 2013 Act 20; State of Wisconsin, 2015 Act 55)
- **We just started including everyone in the ACT tests and Wisconsin is one of the best states in the country in that category.** "Among the 18 states that administered the ACT to all students in 2015, this Wisconsin graduating class cohort ranks 4th in average ACT Composite score." ("The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2016," [ACT](#), 8/24/2016)
- **Students here also have some of the best graduation rates in the country.** Wisconsin's high school graduation rate is sixth highest in the nation. ("High School Graduation Rates By State," [Governing](#), 10/17/2016)
- **On top of that, more than 90% of the districts in the state meet or exceed expectations according to the state report cards.** "Wisconsin's school report cards for the 2015-16 school year were released on November 17, 2016...Overall, 82 percent of public schools and 91 percent of districts met or exceeded expectations." (Laurel White, "82 Percent of Public Schools Earn Passing Grade On Report Cards," [Wisconsin Public Radio](#), 11/17/2016)
- **And families - particularly low income families - all over the Wisconsin now have more quality choices in education.** The 2015-17 Budget created the Statewide Parental Choice

Program, allowing families across the state who earn 185 percent of the federal poverty level or less to receive a voucher to enable their children to attend the school that best fits their needs. (State of Wisconsin, [2015 Act 55](#))

- **Earning college credits in high school also helps reduce the cost of higher education.** In 2015 WTCS Dual Enrollment Programs were estimated to save students between \$14.6 million and \$19.7 million on the cost of higher education. ("Ensuring The Continued Success of Dual Enrollment," [Wisconsin Technical College System](#))